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Examination of rats for plague infection.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Currie reports that during the week ended January 18 198 rats were examined bacteriologically at the plague laboratory of the Service at Honolulu. No plague infection found.

Summaries of rat examinations, three months ended December 31 and six months ended December 31, 1907.

Doctor Currie further reports, January 17:

Summary of the number of rats examined by this laboratory: Rats examined bacteriologically during quarter ended December 31, 1907, 2,171. Rats found infected with *B. pestis*, 7. Rats examined for the half year ended December 31, 1907, 3,242. Rats found infected with *B. pestis* during the half year ended December 31, 1907, 11. Of these infected rats 2 were from Aiea, 2 from Olaa plantation, and 7 from Hilo. No infected rats have been found in Honolulu, although the majority of those examined were obtained in this city. The 7 rats found infected during the last quarter were all from Hilo.

HONDURAS.

Report from Puerto Cortes—Clean bills of health issued.

The following is received from the Department of State, under date of February 4:

The vice-consul at Puerto Cortes reports in a telegram of January 31 that clean bills of health are being issued at that port.

Note. The reference in heading to yellow fever in interior towns, (see Public Health Reports, February 7, 1908, page 156) refers to interior towns of Guatemala.

INDIA.

Reports from Calcutta—Transactions of Service—Cholera, plague, and smallpox—Plague in India and Bengal.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Eakins reports, January 9:

During the week ended January 3 a bill of health was issued to the steamship *Queen Mary*, bound for Philadelphia and New York, with a total crew of 36. The usual precautions were taken, the holds fumigated, rat guards placed on the wharf lines, and Asiatics' effects disinfected.

During the week ended December 21 there were 51 deaths from cholera, 18 from plague, and 2 from smallpox in Calcutta. In Bengal there were 279 cases of plague with 227 deaths.

In India there were 3,410 cases of plague with 2,602 deaths.

Comparative death rate of Calcutta, 1902–1907.

The following is received from Consul-General Michael under date of January 9:

The mean death rate in Calcutta per week during the last five years up to December 21, 1907, was 36.3 per thousand. The general death

rate for the week ended on the above date was 45.5 per mille. The figures on which this percentage is based are as follows: Deaths during the week ended December 21, 1907, numbered 743 against 847 and 817 during the two preceding weeks, and was higher by 107 than the deaths occurring during the same week of 1906. Among the causes of deaths reported are: Cholera, 116; plague, 18; smallpox, 2. The general health of the city was better during the week than during the previous two weeks, and better than it was during the same week of last year.

ITALY.

Report from Naples—Inspection of vessels—Emigrants recommended for rejection—Smallpox in Italy.

Passed Assistant Surgeon McLaughlin reports, January 20:
Week ended January 18.

Vessels inspected at Naples.

Date.	Name of ship.	Destination.	Steerage passengers inspected and passed.	Pieces of large baggage inspected and passed.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.
Jan. 16 18	Lazio.....	New York.....	265	45	550
	Roma.....	do.....	121	40	120
	Total.....	386	85	670

Rejections recommended.

Date.	Name of ship.	Trachoma.	Favus.	Suspected trachoma.	Suspected favus.	Other causes.	Total.
Jan. 16 18	Lazio.....	7	4	5	2	18
	Roma.....	5	1	1	1	2	10
	Total.....	12	5	6	1	4	28

Smallpox.

Week ended January 16. Cases: Budrio (Bologna), 2 cases; Pietrogalla (Potenza), 2; Polistena, 8; Gerace Superiore, 8; Canolo, 2; Oppido Mamertino, 3; Caulonia, 2; Cittanova, 29; Anoia, 1; Pellaro, 1; Rizziconi (Reggio Calabria), 1; Trapani, 2; Alcamo (Trapani), 2.

Week ended January 23. Cases: San Vito Cadore (Belluno), 4 cases; Cittanova, 44; Canolo, 1; Caulonia, 9; Gerace Superiore, 3; Polistena, 5; Anoia, 2; Gioia Tauro (Reggio Calabria), 2.

JAPAN.

Reports from Yokohama—Inspection and fumigation of vessels—Plague-infected rats on steamship Kinko Maru from Formosa—Smallpox at Kobe and Yokohama—General vaccination at Yokohama commenced.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Cumming reports, January 14:

Bills of health were issued during the week ended January 12 to 7 steamships and 1 bark leaving this port for ports of the United